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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC	Polish Tank Troops in Ortelsburg		25X1A
EVALUATION	25X1X	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT	prior to late June 1952		
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	19 February 1953
REFERENCES	25X1		
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS	<p>1. Under the name of the Ortelsburg installation, the former Jaeger Kaserne at the eastern edge of Ortelsburg (R 56/E 93) on the north side of the road toward Olschienen (R 54/A 03) was occupied by Polish tank troops in the summer of 1951. The installation had previously been occupied by Polish infantry. In the summer of 1952, the installation consisted of an old eastern part and a new western part, each comprising six intact buildings. A dwelling house for married commissioned and non-commissioned officers, a large shed, and a parking ground for tanks were on the south side of the road and in front of the barracks installation. [redacted] in Ortelsburg that the quarters of the soldiers were crowded, with beds in the corridors. Residents in Ortelsburg believed that the troops were subordinate to a headquarters in Allenstein (R 54/E 66). While on route from his town toward Ortelsburg, source repeatedly saw 50 to 60 canvas-covered T-34 tanks without muzzle brake. They were arranged into about 12 rows one behind the other. [redacted] that all the tanks were of one type. Occasionally, tanks were seen training and performing firing practices in the area south of Ortelsburg. No practices of tank troops combined with other arms were observed in the Ortelsburg region.<sup>1</sup></p>		
25X1	[redacted]		
	[redacted]		

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1. Prior to 25 June 1952, the former Jaeger Kaserne at the eastern edge of Ortelsburg (R 56/E 93) on the north side of the road toward Olschienen (R 54/A 03) was occupied by Polish tank troops in the summer of 1951. The installation had previously been occupied by Polish infantry. In the summer of 1952, the installation consisted of an old eastern part and a new western part, each comprising six intact buildings. A dwelling house for married commissioned and non-commissioned officers, a large shed, and a parking ground for tanks were on the south side of the road and in front of the barracks installation. [redacted] in Ortelsburg that the quarters of the soldiers were crowded, with beds in the corridors. Residents in Ortelsburg believed that the troops were subordinate to a headquarters in Allenstein (R 54/E 66). While on route from his town toward Ortelsburg, source repeatedly saw 50 to 60 canvas-covered T-34 tanks without muzzle brake. They were arranged into about 12 rows one behind the other. [redacted] that all the tanks were of one type. Occasionally, tanks were seen training and performing firing practices in the area south of Ortelsburg. No practices of tank troops combined with other arms were observed in the Ortelsburg region.<sup>1</sup>

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2. [redacted] from a Ukrainian who lived in his town and was always well informed, that a cantonment occupied by Polish troops was situated in the wooded area between the road toward Gross Schiemanen (R 54/E 92) and the railroad line toward Schodmack (R 54/E 93). [redacted] however, did not see this installation himself. He knew that an ammunition dump, which was built by the Germans, was about 3 km north of Gross Schiemanen on the west side of the road toward Ortelsburg. According to the Ukrainian, this ammunition dump was again in use.

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3. Prior to late June 1952, neither Soviet troops nor Soviet officers were stationed in Ortelsburg.  occasionally saw Soviet officers at the weekly market. He believed they came from the Gross Schiemanen airfield.

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1.  Comment. The 15th Inf Div was previously carried in Allenstein. The present information tends to indicate that this division was reorganized into a motorized rifle division of Soviet type and that the reported tank unit is the tank SP gun regiment of this division.

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